Elisa Torres

AP Literature and Composition

Mr. Lane

6 January 2010

Poem Explication Reflection

When I first found out I had to write an essay on the explication of a poem I read, I was a little apprehensive about how I would go about writing the essay. I did not think that an entire essay could revolve around certain literary devices in a poem, but that changed once I got my ideas together and really started writing. When I read through the poems and found “Sorting Laundry” by Elisavietta Ritchie, I liked it the most out of all of the poems, so the thought of writing my explication was a little less stressful. The poem was also full of literary devices and that helped me make my decision about which poem I wanted to write about.

One issue I need to work on for the next paper I write is the over thinking I do before I even start writing a paper or essay. Although planning is definitely necessary for writing a properly developed essay, I often consider how challenging I think the writing will be, which does not get me anywhere. Instead of worrying so much, I need to focus on ideas and examples I will use when I write my essay. I think I will do a lot better on my next piece of writing if I remember to center my planning on how I will write the essay, rather than how impossible I think the the writing will be.

From writing this explication, I learned about my ability to write an essay on a poem. Prior to this explication, I had only written a few essays on poems and was not sure how mine was going to turn out. In the end, the explication made me a better writer because it pushed me to step a little bit out of my writing comfort zone and try something fairly new. In the end, I definitely learned from writing the explication.